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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application Of )  
                          )  
                          Christopher S. ORDISH et al. )  
Serial No.: JAN 103 1999 )  
Filed: JAN 23, 1998      )  
For: OFFER MATCHING SYSTEM )

Group Art Unit: 2411

Examiner: TBA

Atty. Dkt. No. 03432.73540

The Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

A check in the appropriate amount is included for the additional claims. If additional fees are required, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to debit our deposit account no. 19-0733.

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-20.

Please add new claims as follows:

*Sub D1*  
43. A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid and an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

*B*  
a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a first signal to said network signaling a bid or an offer in response to an initial offer or initial bid;

a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a second signal indicative of said bid or said offer from said network and for sending an acknowledgement of said